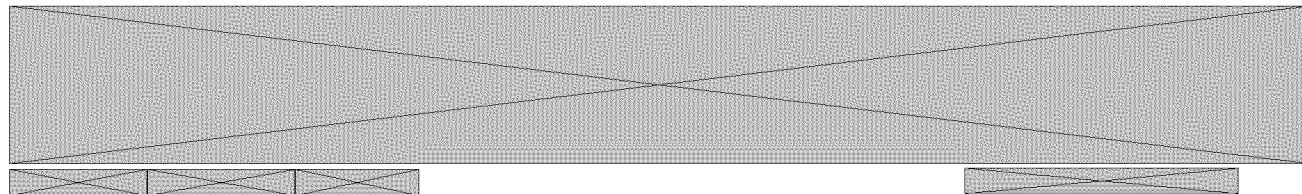


To: Mahmud, Shahid (Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov)[Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov]
From: Lesser, Ben
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 9:01:09 PM
Subject: BNA: Water Quality in Animas River at Pre-Spill Levels

From: BNA Highlights [mailto:bhighlig@email.bna.com]
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Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Water Quality in Animas River at Pre-Spill Levels

Posted August 13, 2015, 3:56 P.M. ET

By [Tripp Baltz](#)

Water quality in the Animas River from Silverton, Colo., to the Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-spill levels, the Environmental Protection Agency said, after EPA contractors triggered a 3-million-gallon release of mining waste.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, during a visit to Durango yesterday, said the determination was based on water samples collected at numerous intervals beginning Aug. 5, when the spill occurred. Agency investigators accidentally unleashed the mining wastewater at the Gold King Mine on Upper Cement Creek.

The plume of waste contained elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury, but the metals have now flowed through the Durango area and are approaching Lake Powell in Utah. The river's water quality in Durango was

good enough for Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) to drink a few gulps yesterday after it was treated with iodine to kill microorganisms.

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